

Council on Open Data

September 26, 2016

10:00AM - 12:00PM

Maryland Department of Information Technology
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032
1st Floor Conference Room

Additional information is available in the PowerPoint presentation for today's meeting, available at:
http://doit.maryland.gov/opendatacouncil/Documents/Meeting_Presentation_09.26.16.pdf

Opening Remarks

Speaker: Luis Estrada, Council Chair (Department of Information Technology)

Attendee Introductions

News Items and Updates

Speaker: Julia Fischer, GIO (Department of Information Technology)

Personnel Change Announcements

- Kenny Miller, previous GIO, has retired from public service and is now employed in the private sector.
- Julia Fischer (julia.fischer@maryland.gov) has replaced Kenny Miller as GIO.
 - Requested that the group not hesitate to reach out for any items, e.g., items for the next (2017) Annual Report for the Council on Open Data.

New federation between data.maryland.gov and [Queen Anne's County's new Open Data Portal](#)

- Queen Anne's County recently launched its own Open Data Portal.
- The State's Open Data Portal now has this new open data resource federated to it.

Changes in data.maryland.gov search catalog

- The data.maryland.gov search catalog now shows the newest content first instead of the datasets with the most total hits.

New training videos available for data.maryland.gov State users

- DoIT is developing training videos for State users of the Open Data Portal, <http://data.maryland.gov>.
- DoIT wants the site to be comprehensible, and not so technical as to be foreboding for new users.
- The videos will cover both tutorials for State users and for public users.
- DoIT asked the group how we can better get the word out about new data resources and the new training videos – marketing, outreach, etc.

Governor Hogan's Performance Improvement Dashboard

Speaker: Governor's Office of Performance Improvement Representatives

Introduce and answer questions about the Governor's new Performance Improvement Dashboard

- Laura Bruner and Pat Pscherer provided an overview of the upcoming Governor's Office dashboard for performance measurement.
- The new dashboard will be based off of the Governor's five priorities.
 - Each priority has supporting metrics.
 - Each metric in the new dashboard will align with measures in Managing for Results (MFR).
- Who is GOPI developing this site for?
 - The general public.
 - The measures will give a pulse on how Maryland is doing on priorities surrounding the Governor's five goals.
- GOPI, working with the Lieutenant Governor, identified nineteen state agencies to focus for data for this dashboard.
- Instead of dictating which measures agencies should track, GOPI has worked in a collaborative, iterative process with these nineteen state agencies, to determine which metrics to track.
- There are about 100 measures total, most of which will be monthly, annual, or quarterly.
- GOPI is developing non-technical language to make the data more clear and understandable.

Council on Open Data Recommendations and Goals - 2016 (from 2015 Annual Report)

Speaker: Josh Exler, Open Data Project Manager (Department of Information Technology)

Discuss goals to be set forth in the Council's 2017 annual report, including unmet 2016 goals and new initiatives

- See slides for a full evaluation of the 12 goals set forth in the 2016 Annual Report.
- Made progress on all 12 goals listed

Question: Sen. Ferguson asked what are the holdups for releasing the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) dashboard.

- GOCCP has concerns about what the data visualizations are showing.
- GOCCP is trying to "get comfortable with that the data are complete," according to Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Deputy Secretary Lou Estrada.
- The backing datasets have been live on the Open Data Portal for over a year.
- Deputy Secretary Lou Estrada (DoIT) is working with Department of Budget and Management to see when the Operating Budget dashboard might be released. This dashboard has not been released yet.
- Update for IT Master plan is actually coming in the next coming weeks, contrary to information stated in the PowerPoint slides.

Council on Open Data Recommendations and Goals - 2017

Speaker: Josh Exler, Open Data Project Manager (Department of Information Technology)

Discuss goals to be set forth in the Council's 2017 annual report, including unmet 2016 goals and new initiatives.

- Address all outstanding items from the 2017 Annual Report

- Recording of live training to obtain the dynamics of the in-person training, expand full training resources

New Goals and Recommendations

- Trying to make initiatives of Council and GOPI overlap more
 - For example, align with MFR data submissions
- Outstanding item to be addressed: more formalized way to submit data and update data
 - Informal processes in place, to date
 - Getting regular data updates in place, the updates are at the discretion of the agencies
 - Create formal standards and procedures for dataset submissions to the Open Data Portal
 - Increase regularity of data submissions could increase the quality of data submissions
- Remove duplicative work

Question: Have we identified customers using this system and understand what their data needs are?

- Public customers, as well as agency customers
- If you build grant applications based on inputs, MD will see needs to bring in more grant money
- Understanding of the levels of government and their data needs
- Pattern trying to break is being too technical and instead making more accessible to the layperson
- Improve customer service
- Marketing/Promotional Plan
 - Communicate how and who is using, along with success stories
 - Organize “road show”, Council and regional representatives
 - Use case “stories” to share the existing data being applied
 - Show analytics of usage and requests for new data
 - Make Council members accountable for conveying the resources available through the efforts of the Council during day-to-day activities, interacting with legislators
 - Targeting internal users and targeting general public
 - Providing machine readable government data to the public
 - Lean toward the technical side, rather than drawing conclusions
 - Some friction to reach the potential of the data out there, depends on the question being asked
 - Primarily here to set policy and expose data, takes work from the agency side and consumer side to transform raw data into information
 - What are the questions trying to be answered, are the conclusions we are drawing accurate?
 - Not the responsibility of the Council, beyond the scope of the Council, promote and make easy to use
 - Focus on getting the data out there is the primary mission, supporting groups that are using the raw data to draw conclusions and provide interpretations
- Formalize data standards, policies and procedures
 - Data freshness dashboard: standardized policies and procedures

Question: Develop a tool for state and local government to inventory the records they manage, brief description, context, performance review is important, but rather specific, measure against the metrics, does not get to the worthwhile datasets that are out there, consumable and are out there

- Consolidate resources into the IT Master Plan, many are already surveyed and inventoried, drawing results from the survey would be a good place to start
- MoCo has almost comprehensive data inventory, year-to-year open data portal publication dates
- Indicate highest priority datasets
- Requirement that approvals and justification for changes to the priority list, declared, so there is responsibility

Question: Are we tracking usage of the open data site

- Already tracking at <http://data.maryland.gov/analytics>
- Is the usage trending upwards?

Comment: Washington County, not a lot of demand or interest in doing open data in smaller, rural counties

- No support from public, no support from county administration
- Resources or ways to generate interest? Some demand or interest that could be shared
- Matter of prioritization at the county level, see the value, get to it when they have the time, up to each individual county how much they want to get involved
- In touch with MACo about the locals micro-site program, through State contract with Socrata, population of 100,000 or fewer individuals can receive free, open data site, only restricts can have 50 datasets uploaded total for each micro-site

Comment: Migrating and archiving retired GIS data layers

- Identify valuable datasets in the present data are useful, thought and discussion how to figure out where they might be sent for permanent archival purposes, datasets that are not maintained into the future

Public Information Act (PIA) Consolidated Metadata Tracking

Speaker: Josh Exler, Open Data Project Manager (Department of Information Technology)

Proposal of several options for tracking PIA metadata across all state agencies and discuss benefits and drawbacks of each.

- Tracking metadata of PIA, rather than turning the response into open data
- How do we do this?
- Existing contracts and in-house development or explore products and outside services, RFP
- Most open data services that are offered can be tailored to meet our needs
- Feedback will be required from each agency, relying on needs of each agency for tracking PIA metadata in a consolidated way
- Whether existing resources would be sufficient for tracking metadata across all agencies

Preview and discuss a survey referencing current practices for tracking PIA metadata, to be distributed to state agencies' PIA contacts.

- Looking for feedback about what else should be included, request through a survey

- What are existing practices? and what can be done to improve the process?
- Completely internal survey, to PIA responsible individuals
- Would not replace PIA procedures, but would ask questions concerning the requests themselves
 - Would aim to consolidate processes and avoid double data entry
 - Alternatively work to consolidate capture of what is being submitted into existing systems
- Basic metadata elements about the requests coming in
- Question 8 addresses whether the description is of the request and/or of the response, suggest that the request be described, not the response
- Trying to consolidate processes and free up workloads, not ask for duplicate data entries
- Is there value to publishing information about the inquiry? a new request does not negate the agency from having to do redo the response, based on the same or similar question, data changes
- What is the end game? - what if two agencies provide a separate response to the same inquiry
 - Council trying to put open data resources online, all state data resources, except named exceptions
 - Without a statewide inventory, we do not know what data exists to fulfill the requirements of the Act

Customer Service Survey

Speaker: Josh Exler, Open Data Project Manager (Department of Information Technology)

Preview Open Data Portal customer survey

- See PowerPoint presentation for additional information:
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Dataset Freshness Report for data.maryland.gov

Speaker: Josh Exler, Open Data Project Manager (Department of Information Technology)

Present statistics on Open Data Portal datasets, including how many are up-to-date and how many are not.

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Nominate old datasets, with no data updates planned, for deletion

Next Meeting

Date: December 15, 2016

Location: 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032